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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------201131Z 024179 /15
O 201126Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1917

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 11523

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR US VN
SUBJ: US/VN RELATIONS: PARIS TALKS

REF: STATE 088499

1. SRV LIAISON OFFICER DO THANH CAME TO THE EMBASSY AT 1100 APRIL 20 TO DISCUSS MODALITIES OF THE MAY 3 PARIS TALKS. EMBOFF SKETCHED US PRELIMINARY VIEWS CONTAINED IN REFTEL AND DO THANH TOOK NOTE, COMMENTING ON THE BASIS OF INCOMPLETE GUIDANCE FROM HANOI.

(A) FIRST SESSION. DO THANH SUGGESTED THAT WE PLAN ON TWO SESSIONS ON THE FIRST DAY, 0930-1230 AND 1500-1800. DURING THE COURSE OF THESE MEETINGS, WE COULD DETERMINE WHETHER A MEETING ON THE SECOND DAY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT FULLY RESPECTIVE INITIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

(B) SITE. DO THANH SAID IT WAS AGREED THAT THE MEETINGS OF THE FIRST SESSION (TWO ON MAY 3 AND POSSIBLY ONE MAY 4) WOULD TAKE PLACE AT THEIR PREMISES ON AVENUE MADRID. HE SAID HE HAD NO RESPONSE YET FROM HANOI ABOUT THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE PREMISES IN EMBASSY B BUILDING, WHICH EMBOFF SHOWED TO HIM.PQKE
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HOPED TO HAVE A RESPONSE FROM HANOI SOON CONCERNING THE SUITABILITY OF THIS SITE FOR THE SECOND SERIES OF MEETINGS.

(C) LANGUAGES. DO THANH THOUGHT OUR APPROACH CONCERNING LANGUAGES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. ALL EXCEPT ONE MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION UNDERSTANDS FRENCH

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WELL AND BASICALLY WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK IT. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD SAVE TIME IF FRENCH WERE USED EXCEPT WHEN IT BECAME A QUESTION OF NUANCE OR QUESTION IN DISPUTE (POINT DE LITIGE). ON THESE OCCASIONS EITHER SIDE COULD

SPEAK IN HIS NATIVE LANGUAGE, AND IT WOULD BE THE JOB OF THE INTERPRETERS TO MAKE SURE THE OTHER SIDE UNDERSTOOD. ON SOME IMPORTANT MATTERS WE COULD REVERT TO WRITTEN TEXTS.

(D) RECORDING THE SESSIONS. DO THANH SAID THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION CONCERNING THE USE OF THE RECORDINGS WAS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE US POSITION. HE WOULD CHECK FURTHER WITH HANOI TO MAKE SURE. HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH THE US USING A STENOGRAPHER FOR ITS RECORD.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 11523

EXDIS

(E) US REPRESENTATIVES. EMBOFF GAVE DO THANH A LIST OF THE US REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDING THE INTERPRETER, STENOGRAPHER AND PRESS OFFICER. DO THANH SAID HE WOULD CHECK WITH HANOI ABOUT THE SUITABILITY OF THE PRESS OFFICER'S ATTENDING THE TALKS.

(F) PRESS HANDLING. DO THANH THOUGHT OUR POSITION ON HANDLING THE PRESS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE; HE NOTED THAT IT UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS. HE TOOK VERY CAREFUL NOTES AND SAID HE WOULD CHECK FURTHER WITH HANOI. HE

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HAD AS YET NO GUIDANCE AS TO HOW HIS SIDE INTENDED TO HANDLE ITS OWN RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS. HE THOUGHT PRESS HANDLING SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BY THE PRINCIPLES IN THE FIRST MEETING.

(G) INFORMING FRENCH. DO THANH SAID THEY WOULD INFORM THE FRENCH OF OUR MEETING AND AGREED THAT WE SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS.

2. DO THANH SAID HIS SIDE EXPECTED THE US, AS GUESTS ON VN PREMISES, TO LEAD OFF WITH THE FIRST STATEMENT ON MAY 3 FOLLOWING THE GREETINGS BY THE VN SIDE. HE SUGGESTED THAT TEXTS OF THE OPENING STATEMENTS OF EACH

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SIDE BE PREPARED IN WRITTEN FORM FOR DISTRIBUTION AFTER DELIVERY. HE REQUESTED THERE BE ENGLISH AND FRENCH VERSIONS OF THE US STATEMENT, BUT THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER IF THE VIETNAMESE HAD THEIRS IN FRENCH ONLY. THEY WOULD PREPARE AN ENGLISH VERSION IF THERE WERE TIME.

3. COMMENT: DO THANH SAID THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH AGREEMENT ON MODALITIES SINCE THEY WERE BASED ON GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES AND ALSO THE PROCEDURES USED IN NOVEMBER AND FEBRUARY WHICH HAD WORKED WELL IN THE PAST. HE THOUGHT PHAN HIEN WAS STILL IN HAROI AND WOULD SOON SEND REACTIONS TO THE MINOR CHANGES WE HAVE PROPOSED.
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